

As current member of the Board of Directors, Farm Worker Ministry Northwest, I am in favor of HB 2358, the Oregon Farmworker Overtime bill.

Farmworkers were excluded from overtime pay in the 1938 Federal Labor Standards Act. For decades, Oregon farmworkers have strengthened the Northwest regional economy through their essential labor, consumer impact and contributions to cultural and religious life throughout our state.

Today, Oregon's 174,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers are among the lowest paid of the entire labor force, earning approximately \$17,000--\$20,000 per year. Through the current COVID-19 health crisis, wildfires and severe weather conditions, farmworkers have provided essential labor in vital Oregon industries--agriculture, forestry and horticulture.

To assure the livelihood of their families, Oregon farmworkers have continued to work despite illness, dangerous job conditions and unsafe weather factors, such as smoke, extreme heat and cold.

Following the example of other agricultural states--California, Washington and New York-- it is time for Oregon employers to provide just compensation for agricultural labor. Hourly and piece-rate farmworkers deserve overtime pay, like other workers in Oregon industries.

I urge that we commit to the greater economic security of Oregon farmworkers and their families through HB 2358.

Thank you for considering this important matter.